

September 2005
State Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems
E mail Newsletter

Good news!! The **State Early Childhood Comprehensive Project Strategic Plan** was submitted to the Health Resources Services Agency this month for review. When the plan is approved, the implementation efforts will begin. Thanks to all of you who participated in focus groups and interviews over the last year which contributed to the content of the plan. A special thanks to the SECCS Steering Committee for their role in crafting the goals, objectives and activities. We will let you know as soon as the plan is approved.

September 19 -21, 2005 is the **National SECCS Conference** in Maryland. We look forward to meeting colleagues from other state and territories which are planning and implementing SECCS objectives. We will share their accomplishments and strategies in next month's edition of the California SECCS email newsletter.

The National Center for Cultural Competence created a DVD titled **Infusing Cultural and Linguistic Competence into Health Promotion Training**. It is designed to help experienced health promotion trainers assure that their approaches with diverse populations address culture and language in an effective, appropriate and respectful manner. The DVD addresses (1) rationale for cultural and linguistic competence, (2) frameworks for achieving cultural and linguistic competence, (3) values, principles and practices of culturally and linguistically competent health promotion training, (4) how the Health Belief Model (Rosenstock, Strecher and Becker, 1994) can be used to infuse cultural and linguistic competence into training, (5) principles and models for community engagement and (6) issues in the content and logistics of trainings. If you don't have a copy, the DVD is available, at no cost, from the National Sudden Infant Death and Other Infant Death Resource Center (<http://www.sidscenter.org/>). This DVD can be used by individuals or groups to build knowledge and capacity to infuse principles and practices of cultural and linguistic competence into health promotion training. The approximately 90 minute video has been divided into chapters so that it can be watched in one viewing or used over several training sessions. The chapters allow viewers to stop at key points for discussion and enhancement activities. For web-based group training materials to enhance the use of the DVD go to <http://gucchd.georgetown.edu/nccc/sidsdvd/grouptraining.html>. The Power Point slides can be downloaded and printed as well. Individuals using the DVD can also benefit from using the group activities as opportunities to reflect on and enhance the training experience.

Another Best Practice in California! Project MENTOR offers site-based professional support to early childhood educators with the goal of increasing the school readiness of children in low-income communities in North and South San Diego County. Professional Growth Mentors work with early care and education providers to develop an individualized training plan with an emphasis on early language, literacy, numeracy, parent/teacher communication, and social and emotional behavior of young children.

Project MENTOR provides an opportunity for participants to enhance young children's learning through enriched experiences in the child's own unique and immediate environment. In addition, participants have access to a wide variety of professional development resources and curricular materials to improve their child care programs. **Project MENTOR** is administered by the San Diego County Office of Education in partnership with the San Diego County Child Care and Development Planning Council, Child Development Associates, WestEd PITS Partners for Quality

and YMCA Childcare Resource Service For more information about this learning opportunity contact Sandy Silverman at ssilver@sdcoe.net.

If you are not interested in receiving future updates from the SECCS project, please email me back and I will remove your name. On the other hand, if you are interested in adding additional folks you think would benefit from the updates, please let me know and I will add their names. Your comments and suggestions are appreciated. Please feel free to correspond with me by email wewayne@kern.org or telephone 916 552-8742 or 661 204-8840. Visit the SECCS website at: <http://www.mch.dhs.ca.gov/programs/seccsfacts.htm>